Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Congenital heart defects are those existing at birth; and,

Whereas, With increased awareness of congenital heart defects, more diagnoses are being made from what was once thought to be extremely rare, non-repairable disorders; and,

Whereas, Congenital heart defects are the most common birth defects and the leading cause of defect-related deaths. Too many babies, children and adults born with congenital heart defects continue to die due to the severity of the defect, the heart defect not being detected in time, a lack of donor hearts, or failure of the medical intervention used; and,

Whereas, More than 32,000 infants (1 out of every 100) are born each year with heart defects in the United States; and,

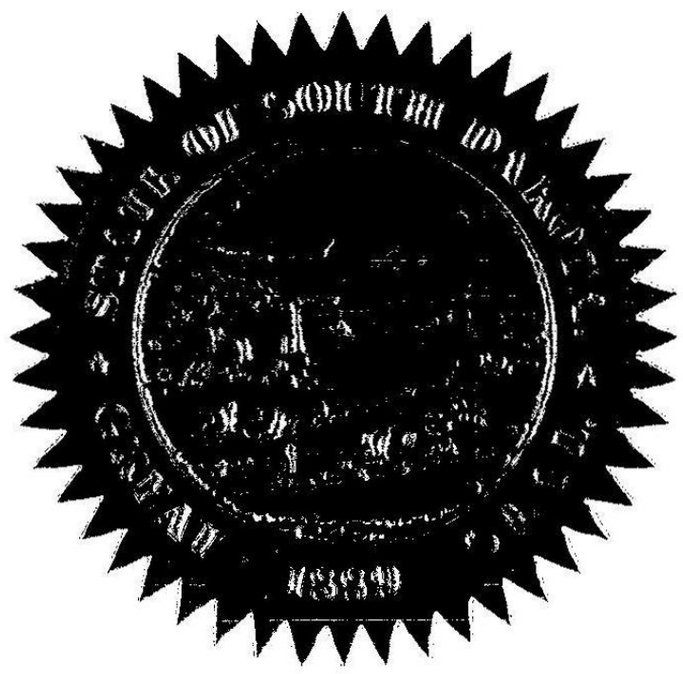
Whereas, Congenital heart defects are being researched by numerous professionals in order to more accurately describe their origin, physical signs and symptoms, and surgical options; and,

Whereas, Citizens should be made more aware of congenital heart defects so that early diagnosis and intervention become top priorities:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 14, 2005, as

A DAY FOR HEARTS: CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS DAY

in South Dakota, and I urge our citizens to commend this observance.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fourth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State